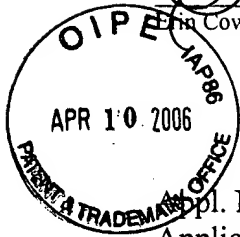


**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO at (571) 273-8300 or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 7, 2006.

Ref. No.: 12439-0046

*AF*  
*TFW 2833*  
*Erin Cowles*  
Erin Cowles



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/710,539  
Applicant : Eldridge et al.  
Filed : November 9, 2000  
TC/A.U. : 2833  
Examiner : Larisa Z. Tsukerman

Confirmation No. 5812

Docket No. : 276440-3

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

To Whom It May Concern:

Listed on an attached Form PTO/SB/08A is information known to applicant(s). Applicants ask that the attached Form PTO/SB/08A be initialed and returned in accordance with MPEP §609. This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56.

**COMMONLY OWNED, RELATED U.S. PATENTS AND APPLICATIONS**

Applicants note that citation numbers 1 and 2 in the attached listing are U.S. patents or applications that are commonly owned with the above-identified patent application and may contain subject matter that is related to the subject matter of the above-identified patent application. The Examiner's attention is therefore directed to the prosecution history of the foregoing related U.S. patent(s) and patent application(s) and prior art cited in these patent(s) and patent application(s); Applicants assume the Examiner has access to all of the prosecution history, including the cited prior art, of these patents(s) and patent application(s), but Applicants will provide copies of all or any part of the prosecution history of or prior art from any of these patent(s) or patent application(s) upon request.

**ONLY ONE COPY PROVIDED**

Citation number 2 in the attached listing is a divisional application of citation number 1. The specifications and drawings of both citation numbers 1 and 2 are therefore essentially the same. Applicants have accordingly included only one copy of the specification and drawings for both citation 1 and citation 2.

**CITATIONS CORRESPOND TO PREVIOUSLY CITED FOREIGN REFERENCES**

Applicants note that citation 1 is a U.S. application to which TW 408408 (citation number 5 in the IDS mailed June 10, 2005 in the above-identified patent application) and WO 98/52224 (in the IDS mailed March 18, 2003 in the above-identified patent application) claim foreign priority.

- ☒ This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because (check all that apply):
- ☐ It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date (other than the filing date of a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d)); or
  - ☐ It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage; or
  - ☐ It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits; or
  - ☒ It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114.
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If this statement is being filed three months after the filing date of a national application or entry of the national stage in an international application and the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action, a notice of allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, then:
- ☐ a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **or**
  - ☐ a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but before payment of the issue fee, then:
- a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **and**
  - a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

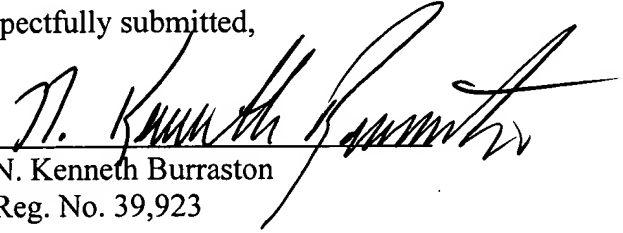
*Fee:*

- ☒ No fee is due.
- ☐ A check that includes \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the above-identified fee(s) is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment is provided by credit card.
- ☐ This statement is filed as one part of a multi-part submission. The fee for the complete submission was included in an electronically filed submission on \_\_. Applicants request the foregoing fee be accepted for this statement. (See OG Notice dated 17 September 2002.)

Respectfully submitted,

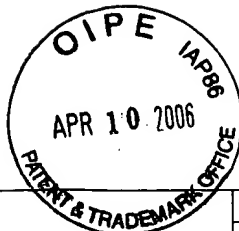
Date: April 7, 2006

By

  
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Appl. no. 09/710,539  
IDS dated April 7, 2006



Modified Form PTO/SB/08A

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

*Complete If Known*

Application Number	09/710,539
Filing Date	November 9, 2000
First Named Inventor	Eldridge et al.
Group Art Unit	2833
Examiner Name	Larisa Z. Tsukerman
Attorney Docket No.	P108-US

Sheet	1	of	1
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**U.S. UNPUBLISHED PATENT APPLICATIONS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Serial No.	Name of Applicant	Filing Date	Related <sup>#</sup>	Copy Enclosed
	1.	09/032,473	Pedersen et al.	2/26/1998	x	Yes
	2.	09/539,287	Pedersen et al.	9/30/2000	x	No**

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

\*\* Citation number 2 in the attached listing is a divisional application of citation number 1. The specifications and drawings of both citation numbers 1 and 2 are therefore essentially the same. Applicants have accordingly included only one copy of the specification and drawings for both citation 1 and citation 2.